



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

April 28, 2000

Dear Vessel Permit Holder:

As a permit holder in the Northeast multispecies, Atlantic sea scallop, Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish, summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, monkfish, or spiny dogfish fisheries, you are required to submit Fishing Vessel Trip Reports (FVTR) to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for every fishing trip. The information you provide in these reports constitutes a critical portion of our data collection programs. Inadequate reporting of vessel activity, as a result of incomplete, illegible, or inaccurate submissions of FVTRs, severely impairs NMFS ability to properly manage the fisheries of the northeast.

While it is our belief that the majority of the industry is diligent in their efforts to report their fishing activity, the effects of inadequate reporting are significant. Please review your reporting practices to ensure that your reporting meets the requirements stated below.

Vessel owners/operators are required to report all fishing activity for each trip taken. In addition, if you fish with multiple gears or in multiple statistical areas on a trip, you are required to submit a separate FVTR for each. If you did not fish for an entire calendar month, you must submit a report so stating. These reports must be complete, legible, accurate, and submitted by the 15th of the following month.

Incomplete, illegible, or inaccurate FVTR submissions will be returned to the vessel permit holder for correction. These measures are necessary to ensure that data collection requirements are met, and that the information provided on your reports can be efficiently and accurately processed. This return policy, which has been in effect since the implementation of FVTR reporting, is being expanded as part of a continuing effort to improve the overall quality and timeliness of our data collection programs. If an incomplete report is not returned by NMFS, that does not relieve you of the responsibility to submit the required information.

Submission of incomplete, illegible, or inaccurate reports does not fulfill your reporting requirements. Those requirements may be met upon the re-submission of the corrected FVTRs. Failure to comply with the vessel reporting requirements in an accurate and timely fashion may result in a referral to NMFS Office of Law Enforcement and/or non-renewal of federal vessel permits. If you have any questions regarding FVTR reporting, please call the Northeast Regional Office, Fisheries Statistics Office at (978) 281-9246.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator